

FOOT MOUNTED VENOUS COMPRESSION DEVICE

RELATED APPLICATIONS:

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5 This application is a continuation of Applicant's co-pending U.S. patent application
Serial No. 08/816,807 ^{now Pat No. 5,989,204} filed March 19, 1997, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application
Serial No. 08/428,268 filed April 25, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S.
patent application Serial No. 08/275,920 filed July 14, 1994, now abandoned, which is a
continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/000,545 filed January 4, 1993, now
abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 07/766,576 filed
10 September 27, 1991, now abandoned. By this reference, the full disclosures, including the claims
and drawings, of U.S. patent applications Serial No. 08/816,807, Serial No. 08/428,268, Serial
No. 08/275,920, Serial No. 08/000,545, and Serial No. 07/766,576 are incorporated herein as
though now set forth in their respective entireties.

15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

Field of the Invention. The present invention relates to massage devices which apply
pressure to the body. More particularly, the invention is in the class of medical devices which
utilize cyclic pressure to aid blood circulation in the limbs of a human body.

Related Art. Medical devices that apply cyclic pressure to a person's legs, arms and/or
20 feet are very old and well-known in the art. Many have employed pulsating pads or plungers for
improving circulation. Others have used hydraulic and pneumatic bladders for the same and for
many other purposes. The shapes, sizes, and composition of such bladders and pads are widely
varied, depending largely on their particular application.

Man has known the fundamental principle of most cyclic compression devices for
25 thousands of years. They are merely a more recent embodiment of the old art of massage, which